

**DRAFT**

**TO:** Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee and HSRG

**FROM:** Terry Wright & Paul Seidel

**DATE:** February 26, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Process and timelines for Hatchery Reform Implementation and Puget Sound NEPA Review

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The Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (HRCC) requested us to work with the HRCC Implementation Working Group (IWG) to develop a process for implementation of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) recommendations for hatchery reforms. We are providing this memo to clarify how this process will work and also how it fits with other ongoing hatchery reform efforts of the co-managers.

We met with the IWG on 2/5/04 to review our thoughts and proposals and receive additional suggestions. The conclusions of those meetings are captured in the Preliminary Tasks & Time-frames section later in this memo. Betsy Daniels of LLTK volunteered to capture this information in a more detailed timeline (through July 2005) that will include all of the elements associated with the Hatchery Reform project, co-managers implementation, the hatchery NEPA process and some peripheral processes such Puget Sound Shared Strategy. That document will demonstrate how and when, each of the elements fits together.

One of the recommendations provided by the HRCC included setting up technical meetings between HSRG and co-managers technical staffs to review each controversial "Region-wide" HSRG recommendation. These meetings will occur each week through April. The last technical meeting in the series, will review each of the discussions on region-wide issues, in a regional forum to include full tribal and WDFW technical participation. These technical meetings will be followed by co-manager staff, developing a decision document on each topic. This will provide co-manager policy makers with information about the issue, the options and technical recommendations for adoption.

Once adopted by the co-managers, these decisions on region-wide issues will set the stage for regional policy level meetings of the co-managers that will be facilitated to ensure agreement. Each of these regional meetings will result in new, co-management agreements on the enhancement programs in each region. These regional co-manager policy meetings could include a technical pre-meeting with HSRG staff and local technical staff, as needed, to identify and discuss any of the "red-flagged" recommendations in that region. The Region-wide co-managers kick-off policy meeting will be scheduled for early May. The region specific meetings will occur between May and October, 2004.

Once regional agreements are reached, the programs will be captured through modifications to the future brood document (FBD), hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs) and Resource management plans (RMPs). Monitoring programs, research, and adaptive management, will be captured in HGMPs and/or RMPs as appropriate. The revision of these documents should reflect agreed changes from the HSRG, NOAA Fisheries 4d process, revision of the co-managers fish health transfer policy and all other inputs regarding the enhancement programs of the co-managers. For that reason, the timing of these revisions requires waiting until after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is published (November 2004), but before the final EIS is published July 2005).

## **PRELIMINARY TASKS & TIME-FRAMES**

### **FEBRUARY – APRIL 2004** (Preparation)

- ▶ Discussion of region-wide issues – technical meetings to highlight policy decisions (HSRG, WDFW, NWIFC & USFWS)
  - Identify and discuss high profile/controversial HSRG recommendations
  - The last technical meeting in the series, will review each of the discussions on region-wide issues and will include HSRG, tribal and WDFW technical participation.
- ▶ Complete first draft of item specific hatchery reform tracking spreadsheets
- ▶ Schedule regional policy level co managers meetings to resolve outstanding issues
  - Each regional meeting requires compilation of recommendations, current FBD programs and other existing production agreements
  - Each region will require a monitoring plan, following the framework and guidelines developed by the co-managers and the HSRG

### **MAY – OCTOBER 2004** (Co manager's Issue Resolution)

- ▶ Each region will complete the resolution process and identify agreed elements for implementation
  - Agreements will need to be captured in future FBD, HGMPs and RMPs
  - Agreements will identify monitoring needs
- ▶ HSRG will provide technical assistance at the regional level on an as needed basis
- ▶ Co-managers create a single “database” that expands on the information in the spreadsheet for long term tracking of hatchery reform
- ▶ Improve BRAP for ongoing use in risk assessments and adaptive management

### **NOVEMBER 2004 – JULY 2005** (post DEIS - implementation)

- ▶ New version of HGMPs completed (include performance measures)
- ▶ New Resource Management Plans completed
- ▶ Continue implementation of changes that don't require additional resources
- ▶ Implement changes with new available resources
- ▶ Identify additional resources required to implement each agreed element and continue prioritization processes that provide rankings for implementation
- ▶ Identify research needs that address unresolved issues
- ▶ Identify data management and/or modeling issues for hatchery reform
- ▶ Public education campaign that highlights multitude of hatchery reform changes already implemented

### **JULY 2005 – DECEMBER 2005** (Final EIS/4d approval process)

- ▶ Continue implementation as resources become available
- ▶ Continue research needs that address unresolved issues
- ▶ Continue data management and/or modeling work for hatchery reform
- ▶ Continue public education campaign that highlights multitude of hatchery reform changes already implemented